ancing are constantly reviewed and necessary action taken.

PRIVATISATION OF TELCOM. DEPTT.

2494. SHRI S. VIDULTHALAI VIRUMBI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to encourage the privatisation programme in the Telecom. Department; and

(b) if so, the details ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

POST OFFICES IN GRAM PANCHAYATS IN GUJARAT

2495. SHRI AHMED MOHAMEDBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Gram Panchayats in the State of Gujarat are without facility of Post Office;

(b) if so, whether Central Government have decided to set up a post office in every Gram Panchayat during 1993-94; and

(c) if so, by when, and the steps taken to achieve the target fixed, if any, in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) There are 5183 Gram Panchayats without post offices in Gujarat.

5183 Gram Panchayat is without Post Post Offices during 1993-94 in Gram Panchayats of Gujarat. Priority is being given to those Gram Panchayats where post office facility is not available. Post offices are progressively opened taking into consideration the various prescribed norms as well as availability of resources, and allocation of target by the Planning Commission.

NEW TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM FOR TRANSMISSION OF DATA

2496. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be plyeased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to install a high speed packet switch, VAST (Very Small Aperture Terminal), telecommunications system for the transmission of data via the KU bank transponder through INTELSAT leased from Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what are the names of places where VAST is likely to be started; and

(d) by when these are likely to be started and at what cost ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

POSTAL DIVISION IN EACH REVENUE DISTRICT IN ORISSA

2497. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Postal Divisions in Orissa, the area covered|serviced by them and when they were formed;

(b) the details of action taken or proposed to be taken to set up Posal Divisions in each Revenue District of Orissa in the near future and how the newly created revenue districts are being ser-

viced or are proposed to be serviced by postal net-work; and

(c) the details of mail motor service available/proposed to be made available for the postal network in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House (*see* below)

(b) There is no proposal, at present, to set up Postal Divisions in the newly created Revenue Districts in Orissa. The newly created Revenue Districts are being adequately served by the existing Postal Divisions.

(c) Mail Motor Service is available in Rourkela, Cuttack and Bhubaneshwar. The Department has, at present, no proposal for creation of any new Mail Motor Service Unit for Orissa Postal Circle.

STATEMENT

Name of the Postal Division	Revenue District (s) covered	Area served (sq. km.)	Date of opening
1. Aska	Portion of Ganjam Distt.	4325.00	1-6-85
2. Balasore	Balasore	3706.30	1-2-53
3. Berhampur	Gajapati District & portion of Ganjam Distt.	8202.30	16-6-78
4. Bhadrak	Bhadrak (Bhadrak Revenue Sub Division including portion of Keonjhar Distt.)	2786.90	1-8-80
5. Bhubaneswar	Bhubaneswar Sub Division of Khurda Distt. and some portion of Puri Distt.	2537.11	26-1-77
6. Bolangir	Bolangir & Sonepur Distts.	8836.00	2-1-60
7. Cuttack city	Cuttack	2012.33	25-9-80
8. Cuttack North	Jajpur and Kendrapara Distts. & Portion of Cuttack Distt.	5682.00	28-12-79
9. Cuttack South	Jagatsinghpur Distt. & Athgarh & Banki Sub Divisions of Cuttack Distt.	3447.67	25-9-80
10. Dhankanal	Dhenkanal & Angul Distts.	10826.00	28-12-79
11. Kalahandi	Kalahandi & Nuapada Distts.	11772.00	14-11-88
12. Keonjhar	Keonjhar Distt.	8303.00	15-9-66
13. Koraput	Koraput, Malkangiri, Nowrangpur & Rayagada Distts.	27020.00	1-12-71
14. Mayurbhanj	Mayurbhanj Distt.	10416.40	28-12-72
15. Phulbani	Phulbani Distt.	10230.28	28-10-72
16. Puri	Portion of Puri & Khurda Distts. and entire Nayagarh Distt.	8375.71	15-2-55
17. Sambalpur	Sambalpur and Distts. and part of Bolangir District.	17516.00	15-6-1911
18. Sundargarh	Sundargarh District	9712.00	2-3-70